(b) Remote metering would involve installation of electronic meter with facility for remote reading; communication system and receiving system. The cost of installing these facilities would depend upon the type and category of consumer, number of consumers, communication system adopted, area covered, and the time interval at which the information is sought etc.

(c) The Government of India has launched an Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) wherein financial assistance is provided to SEBs/Utilities for upgradation/strengthening of sub transmission & distribution systems, with the objectives of reducing T&D losses to around 15%, improvement in quality of power and increasing the reliability of power supply leading to greater customer satisfaction. The schemes being implemented under APDP include installation of meters at all levels of transformation and on all consumption, capacitor installation for power factor correction, reconductoring, bifurcation/sectionalisation of feeders and replacement/installation of Distribution Transformers, apart from measures to reduce commercial loss. Guidelines/Manuals for development/ improvement of sub-transmission & distribution systems on scientfic basis have also been prepared by an Expert Committee and are being circulated to the power utilities.

Pending clearance for captive power plants by CEA

720. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for setting up captive power plants presently pending for clearance by CEA and State Governments/State Regulatory Commissions;

(b) whether Government have issued any special guidelines to States for power plant in Special Economic Zones (SEZ); and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Under Section 44 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the State Electricity Boards give consent to setting up of captive power plants by various industries. Consultation of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is necessary only in cases where the capacity of the captive power project exceeds 25 MW. As on date, on complete Detailed Project Report for any captive power plant, is pending with CEA.

(b) and (c) Only July 11, 2001 the Ministry of Power has circulated a Captive Power Policy prepared in consultation with the CEA to all the State Governments and Union Territories in which it has been suggested that units in Special Economic Zones and industries/entities may be allowed to set up captive power plants liberally.

Substantial allocation for accelerated power development programme in the tenth five year plan

721. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Power Ministry has sought for a substantial allocation of resources under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor;

(c) the number of distribution circles currently funded by APDP for undertaking improvement in the distribution system;

(d) whether any feedback has been received from these centres as to the results achieved in terms of loss reduction and other aspects of distribution reforms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) An allocation of Rs. 1000 crores and Rs. 1500 crores had been made in the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 repectively under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP). This is being utilized *inter-alia* for upgradation of the sub-transmission & distribution systems in 63 electricity distribution circles in various States in the country. It is proposed to seek substantial enhancement of the allocation under the APDP in the Tenth Five Year Plan to cover all the electricity distribution circles in the country in order to reduce the T&D losses and improve the quality & reliability of power supply for the power utilities to achieve commercial viability. Given the fact that 75-80% of the total T&D losses and almost the entire commercial loss takes place at the distribution stage, the focus under APDP is on improvement of the distribution system apart from maximization of customer satisfaction.